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EDITORIAL

On these pages the editor offers his opinions, unshackled by advertising patrons and unrestrained by anything save a sense of the decent and the truthful. The editor, alone, is responsible for their type, their tone and their tenor.

THE POSITION OF PHARMACY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

PHARMACY'S history is one of its proudest assets, for "the art of the apothecary" has been practiced since the first man had his first illness. Thus, when our ancestors fell heir to, or chose their duties, some of them, by nature or by inclination, came into the practice of medicine and pharmacy.

Through many centuries, the two professions, were interdependent and inseparable. In most instances medicine and pharmacy were practiced simultaneously by the same individuals. Then, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, further delineation of communal duties brought about the establishment of apothecary shops, or drug stores, owned and managed by men whose specialized work as pharmacists demanded so much of their time that they could not enter also into the practice of medicine.

Today we find the same distinction of duties, together with harmony and understanding between the professions of medicine and pharmacy, each, in its own way and with the assistance of the other, playing its part in the never ending struggle against pain, sickness and disease. Dentistry, nursing and the other public health services are indispensable allies in this united endeavor to bring about longer and healthier lives. It has been a progressive battle. In a period of only a century and a half in this country, man's life expectancy has risen from 35 to 62 years. The products provided by modern pharmacy have contributed in no small measure to this result.

The Meaning of the Profession

Pharmacy is the art and science of preparing from natural and synthetic sources suitable and convenient materials for use as drugs. It also comprehends the compounding of drugs and the dispensing of drugs and medicines according to prescription, and their distribution in other ways. Pharmacy also embraces the collection, identification,

preservation, analysis and standardization of drugs and medicines; the synthesis of medicinal chemicals and the preparation of biological products. In short, the primary function of pharmacy is to prepare medicines for those who need them.

Pharmacy's Progress

From its domination in early days by alchemy and superstition, pharmacy has developed into a highly specialized art involving the application of the exact and exacting sciences. The necessity of trade has always been a more or less important factor in its existence, and has, at times, seemed to obscure its real value and function. Yet, through a happy fellowship of professionalism and commercialism, the ready availability and distribution of drugs and medicines throughout this country is provided for. In the United States there are a sufficient number of adequately trained registered pharmacists. One hundred and twenty thousand of these professional and scientific workers, practicing in 60,000 registered pharmacies, and 3000 hospitals, insure that no person is at any time very far removed from an adequate and reliable source of medicaments.

Based on the country's population, this indicates one drug store ready to serve each 2000 people. In the aggregate, 200,000,000 prescriptions are filled by these pharmacists each year. Hospital and clinic pharmacies fill countless others.

The Pharmacist Serves the Public Welfare

In addition to the compounding of prescriptions, retail pharmacists in drug stores render many other useful services. Through the knowledge which they have gained in years spent in colleges of pharmacy in their apprenticeships and in their practice, they make a special contribution to the welfare of the citizen. Their intelligence in the methods of preparing and properly combining medicinal substances places them constantly in a position to assist practicing physicians in the successful treatment of disease. They likewise supply physicians and dentists with sterile solutions, antiseptics, surgical aids, anesthetics, stains used in the study of bacteria; also various other materials used in diagnosis and treatment.

The retail pharmacist is also a frequent source of supply for veterinary medicines, insecticides, fungicides, rodent poisons, household disinfectants and many similar articles with which he has become so familiar. Serums, and vaccines, foods for infants and invalids, sickroom and first-aid supplies, and sanitation aids are customarily distributed by pharmacists because of the specialized knowledge required for the preparation, storage and use of these items.

The retail or hospital pharmacist frequently manufactures such compounds as must be freshly prepared, and he also manufactures a number of medicines which can be economically prepared in his own laboratory. He is also the center of distribution and the focal point of information and advice concerning the myriad of vital preparations manufactured in the great, centrally located laboratories.

And here we have a modern phase of pharmacy, to the casual on-looker little known, because part of the practice of the profession has passed from the hands of the "apothecary" into other yet capable hands. The extensive drug industry—huge drug collecting organizations and milling concerns, large manufacturers of organic and inorganic chemicals of medical value, immense pharmaceutical manufacturing establishments, biologic laboratories, institutes of pharmaceutic research—all of these are integral parts of the pharmacy of today, with the corner Drug Store an important link in the chain of agencies necessary to provide all the preparations required by modern medicine. As the actual prescription-compounding, medicine-supplying station, the corner drug store, notwithstanding its side lines, is a valuable, serviceable spot in every community.

The Pharmacist in the Community

As a general rule, pharmacists are intensely civic-minded. They are often active in various service clubs, chambers of commerce, church and charity organizations, and other groups working for the betterment of the community. Often, their stores are the centers of neighborhood activity along these lines. Open for a greater part of the day than most business establishments, they lend themselves admirably to this purpose.

The Law Recognizes the Pharmacist

Recognized as a public health profession in every civilized country in the world, the practice of pharmacy in all such countries is regulated by law. In the United States the laws of the various States limit the practice of pharmacy to those who are properly qualified and licensed as determined by formal collegiate education and subsequent state governmental examination. These same laws have placed the

legal distribution of poisons, potent drugs and medicines and narcotics under the supervision of pharmacists.

Such laws are just, and work for public benefit. Under these regulations, pharmacy is able to render an incomparable service to the community. If the public interest be given full consideration there should be no curtailment of the services now rendered by the pharmacists of the nation. Obviously, therefore, any effort in the direction of concentrating pharmaceutical facilities in governmental departments or health centers except in a few very special cases, would reduce the availability of adequate assistance on a private scale. Pharmacy is a profession of service to each citizen in each country. It must and will always be so.

Your Pharmacist Greets You

Whether you are well, or whether you are ill, your pharmacist greets you. He is eminently prepared to render professional service without limit. He is happy and willing to render the multitude of other services you are accustomed to expect of your favorite pharmacy.

Your pharmacist is your friend.

Effect of Radiant Energy on Thermophilic Organisms in Sugar. H. H. Hall and J. C. Keane. J. Ind. & Eng. Chem. 31, 1168 (1939). Results obtained by the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry indicate that the spores of a thermophilic organism which spoils canned food, B. stearothermophilus Donk, are killed in dry white sugar by radiant energy rays most of which are in the region 253.7 μ . The lethal action is enhanced when the sugar crystals are kept in constant motion in the sugar granulator during irradiation. For this purpose, 24 thirty inch lamps were installed in the sugar outlet end of a granulator. Under these conditions an average of 47.8 per cent. of the spores were killed by irradiating eight successive batches of sugar. No chemical changes were noted in the irradiated product. The results indicate the possibility of sterilizing sugar and other such substances by this method.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

A NEW APPROACH TO THE STANDARDIZATION OF DIGITALIS

By Arno Viehoever, N. H. Sokoloff and A. A. Taransky * †

I. Introduction

THE unsolved problem of devising a reliable method for the standardization of digitalis and its preparations has been intensively investigated for several decades. Although it is agreed that graded dosage of this important heart tonic can be permitted only by standardization, the majority of methods devised for measuring potency are in reality merely toxicity assays. Were it true that the toxicity of a digitalis preparation is related to its therapeutic efficiency in correcting cardiac dysfunction, then such methods for the assay of potency would have a logical basis. However, we believe that potency in the case of digitalis can scarcely be considered as synonymous with toxicity. Thus, the official methods of standardization are toxicity assays which indicate the margin of safety of a preparation and not the actual therapeutic value.

Significant discrepancies in results have been reported by different workers using the same methods for a single sample of digitalis, and with the use of other methods the disagreement has been more marked. Even in the case of the U. S. P. XI Digitalis Standard, Rowe has reported that there is a variable action, and that it is 50 per cent. stronger than the U. S. P. X Standard (8).

The senior author and his previous students (5 and 6) had studied the effect of digitalis and certain of its constituents upon the heart of Daphnia magna. Digitoxin rapidly depressed the rate of heartbeat. Also, as recorded in micromovies (7), the spastic heartbeat of daphnia produced by chloroform was abolished, and a regular rhythm with increased force established through the use of digitalis and Verodigen—a preparation of digitalis glucosides. More recent studies have disclosed the fact that certain types of drug-induced depression of the rate of heartbeat could be wholly or partially prevented

^{*} From the Gross Laboratory for Biological and Biochemical Research. † We are indebted to Dr. Isadore Cohen for invaluable aid and advice in these experiments.

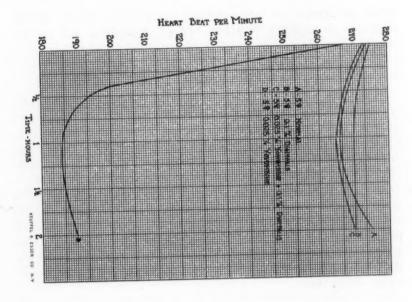
in the presence of an active digitalis preparation. These findings suggested an approach to a new method of studying and perhaps standardizing digitalis by its desirable remedial activity.

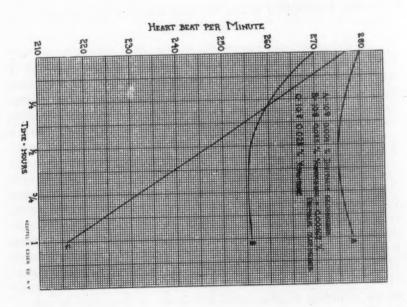
II. Description and Culture of Daphnia Magna

Daphnia magna is a small (1/10 inch) transparent, fresh-water crustacean belonging to the Cladocera. It possesses well developed muscular, nervous and glandular systems. The ease of observation of the internal organs functioning normally and under drug or toxic action permits direct quantitative measurements (3). The propagation of Daphnia magna has been reported by Viehoever (1) and the methods of standardization by Viehoever and Cohen (4). Cultured under uniform conditions, Daphnia magna exhibits a definite rhythm and periodicity of growth. Reproduction is chiefly through diploid parthenogenesis. Numerous offspring of genetical uniformity is thus assured for statistical studies. The offspring can reproduce in ten days, while the life span of the species at 70 degrees F. is approximately ninety days.

III. Description of the Methods Used in the Daphnia Experiments

In the earlier experiments the hanging-drop technique was utilized. Double depression slides were found to be especially satisfactory since a control animal could be mounted for direct comparison with the test animal which was suspended in the drug mixture. These mixtures consisted either of vohimbine (2), veratrine or atropine which depress the rate of heartbeat of daphnia, and digitalis or digitalis glucosides in varying proportions. Although this method possessed the virtue of simplicity, there were numerous disadvantages and sources of errors. The amount of the test solution was limited to a single drop, and there was an unavoidable variation in the size of the drop from one experiment to another. The cooling effect of evaporation caused a decrease in the rate of heartbeat, and furthermore, the condensation of the water vapor produced a blurred image which interfered with the observations. In addition, the consequent reduction of the oxygen-tension level appeared to impair the respiratory function of the test animals, and this undoubtedly contributed in many cases to the recording of abnormally low levels of depression in rate of heartbeat.





Small double chambers were used and soon abandoned in favor of the following method and its variation. Although the double chamber could be used to project a normal and a test animal simultaneously, the technique involved in mounting the animals was too time consuming and possessed several of the disadvantages of the hangingdrop method.

The procedure, designated by us as the Mass Culture method, has demonstrated its merit. Daphnia from a standardized culture are divided into two groups. The first is placed in a one ounce bottle three-quarters filled with the drug solution which depressed the rate of heartbeat, and the second group is placed in a bottle similarly filled with a mixture of the depressant drug and digitalis or digitalis glucosides in varying proportions. At uniformly timed intervals the daphnia were rapidly removed, and the rate of heartbeat was determined in the depression of a ground glass slide. The protective activity of digitalis was manifested at that concentration where none or little depressant activity was observed in the mixture of depressant drug and digitalis. The level of depression caused by the depressant activity of the drug was obtained in the first group, and intermediate levels were obtained in certain concentrations of the drug and digitalis mixtures. Of course, the normal rate of hearbeat was determined at the beginning of the assay, and precautions were taken to maintain a constant temperature, usually 70 degrees F., at which temperature it has been our practice to culture the daphnia.

A variation of this method, designated as the Single Culture method, consists of the taking the normal heartbeats of many daphnia and placing them individually in the one ounce bottles similarly filled with the depressant drug and mixtures of the depressant drug and digitalis in various concentrations. In this way, the reactions of individual daphnia could be studied over long periods of time. The rate of heartbeat was counted as in the immediately preceding method. This Single Culture method can be employed after the injection of definite amounts of drug and drug-digitalis mixtures, and culture medium is used in their stead in the bottles. In this paper we shall report only those results which do not embody the microinjection technique.

IV. Results and Discussion

Yohimbine, because of its relatively low toxicity, was found to be the most suitable cardiac depressant for our purposes. Degree of

cardiac depression in daphnia is measured by the decrease in the number of heartbeats per minute. Three samples of digitalis were used: Powdered Digitalis Leaf (A), International Standard Digitalis (B), and a mixture of Digitalis glucosides (C).

Five daphnia (Table I) placed in 0.025 per cent. yohimbine solution, and having an average normal heartbeat of 267, at the end of two hours had an average heartbeat of only 190. On the other hand, the five daphnia which were placed in mixture of 0.025 per cent. yohimbine

TABLE II

EFFECT OF DIGITALIS LEAF PREPARATIONS AGAINST YOHIMBINE DEPRESSION

1	Norn	nal H	leart	Beat	1	Vorn	nal H	Leart	Beat	1	Vorn	nal H	leart	Beat
I.	281	hrt.	bts.	/min.	1.	283	hrt.	bts.	/min.	I.	273	hrt.	bts.	/min
2.	287	44	44	44	2.	292	66	44	66	2.	285	44	64	44
3.	300	44	44	44	3.	292	66 .	66	66	3.	277	44	64	. 44
4.	283	44	44	44	4.	269	66	44	44.	4.	269	66	64	64
5.	290	66	66	44	5-	274	44	64	и	5-	277	44	44	64
Av.	288				Av.	282				Av.	276			

One Hour

.025	% Y	ohim	bine										
202	hrt.	bts.	/min.	· I.	198	hrt.	bts.	/min.	ĩ.	208	hrt.	bts.	/min.
263	64	64	44	2.	214	46	44	46	2.	205	66	66	66
225	44	44	44	3.	222	46	66	44	3.	217	66	44	44
214	44	44	44	4.	243	66	44	~ 44	4.	191	44	64	44
209	44	44	44	5.	273	44	44	44	5.	209	44 .	44	44
									,				
223				Av.	190				Av.	206			
	202 263 225 214 209	202 hrt. 263 " 225 " 214 "	202 hrt. bts. 263 " " 225 " " 214 " " 209 " "	203 225 " " " 214 " " " 209 " " "	202 hrt. bts. /min. 1. 263 " " 2. 225 " " 3. 214 " " 4. 209 " " 5.	.0745 202 hrt. bts. /min. I. 198 263 " " " 2. 214 225 " " 3. 222 214 " " 4. 243 209 " " 5. 273	.0745% D 202 hrt. bts. /min. I. 198 hrt. 263 " " " 2. 214 " 225 " " 3. 222 " 214 " " 4. 243 " 209 " " 5. 273 "		.0745% Dig. (A) * 202 hrt. bts. /min. 263 " " " 2. 214 " " " 225 " " 3. 222 " " " 214 " " 4. 243 " " " 209 " " 5. 273 " " "	.0745% Dig. (A) * 202 hrt. bts. /min. I. 198 hrt. bts. /min. I. 263 " " " 2. 214 " " 2. 225 " " 3. 222 " " " 3. 214 " " 4. 243 " " " 4. 209 " " 5. 273 " " " 5.	.0745% Dig. (A) * .034 202 hrt. bts. /min.	.0745% Dig. (A) * .0345% I 202 hrt. bts. /min. I. 198 hrt. bts. /min. I. 208 hrt. 263 " " " 2. 214 " " 2. 205 " 225 " " 3. 222 " " 3. 217 " 214 " " 4. 243 " " 4. 191 " 209 " " 5. 273 " " 5. 209 "	.0745% Dig. (A) * .0345% Dig. (g) 202 hrt. bts. /min. I. 198 hrt. bts. /min. I. 208 hrt. bts. 263 " " " 2. 214 " " " 2. 205 " " 225 " " 3. 222 " " " 3. 217 " " 214 " " 4. 243 " " " 4. 191 " " 209 " " 5. 273 " " " 5. 209 " "

Two Hours

	.025	% Y	ohim	bine		-			ine + > A) *		.034			ine + (A)
I.	181	hrt.	bts.	/min.	1.	185	hrt.	bts.	/min.	I.	180	hrt.	bts.	/min.
2.	157	64	44	64	2.	191	66	64	ш	2.	164	44	66	41
3.	209	66	44	64	3.	157	66	44	66	3.	157	66	44	44
4.	167	86	44	44	4.	177	66	44	44	4.	151	. 66	- 66	. 44
5.	166	44	44	44	5.	195	64	44	- 44	5.	183	44	44	44
			-											
v.	198				Av.	187			~	Av.	167			

^{*} This sample of Digitalis was bought on the open market. It was more than two years old and was kept without precautions to prevent deterioration.

TABLE I

PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF DIGITALIS LEAF PREPARATIONS OVER A WIDE RANGE AGAINST YOHIMBINE DEPRESSION

Single Culture Method

	Norn	nal F	lear	t Beat		Norr	nal F	leart	Beat		Norn	nal F	Ieart	Beat		Norn	nal I	Heart	Beat		Norn	nal H	leart	Beat		Norn	al H	eart	Beat	1	Norn	nal He
I. 2. 3. 4. 5.	273 273 253 273 300	hrt.	bts.	/min.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	269 257 275 250 283	64 64 64	bts. "	/min. " "	I. 2. 3. 4. 5.				/min. " " "	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	292 269 267 269 267	44	. bts.	/min " "			hrt. "		/min. " "	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.				/min.			hrt. 1
Av.	274				Av.	267				Av.	275				Av.	273				Av	278				Av.	273				Av.	292	
																			On	e Hou	r											
	Norn	nal H	Iear	t Beat		.025	% Y	ohim	bine		0.1%	Dig	italis	(A)					ine +					ine +					ine +			Yohi
2.	269	hrt.	bts.	/min.	2.	228 188 173	44	bts.	/min.	I. 2.	265 271 265	n 46	bts.	/min.	1. 2. 3.	290 240 285	64	bts.	/min	. I. 2.	245 279 260	44	bts.	/min.	1.	247 272 261	hrt.	bts.	/min.	2.	273	hrt. I
3· 4· 5·	255 269 200	44	44	44	3. 4. 5.	172	44	46	44	4. 5.	283 269	66	44 64	44	4-	269		66	44	. 4	257 269	,44 46	44 44	86	3. 4. 5.	265 273	64	44	66	3. 4. 5.	275 281 281	44
Av.	266				Av.	186				Av.	270),			Av.	265				Av	264				Av.	264					276	
											5								Tw	о Нои	rs					,						
	Norn	nal H	Iear	t Beat		.025	% Y	ohim	bine		0.1%	Digi	italis	(A)				himb italis	ine +		-			ine + (A)					ne + (A)			Yohi Digi
1.	223			/min.	I.	200	hrt.	bts.	/min.	I.	269			/min.	I.	269		bts.	/min.	1.	240			/min.	I.	263		bts.	/min.	1.	271	hrt. b
2.	248	64	66	44	2.	148	44	44	46	2.	273	44	44	. 66	2.	273	44	44	66	2.	285	66	44	44	2.	272	48	46	44	2.	273	44
3.	281 288	66	66	66	3.	250	246.	64	66	3.	273	44	64	66	.3-	273	64	44	44	3.	277	44	44	4	3.	277	44	64	**	3.	269	64
5.	285	44	**	46	5.	175 180	44	66	44	5.	277 261	46	**	44	5.	277 261	66	44	46	5.	277 273	46	46	88	5.	257 269	66	48	66	4 - 5 -	275 277	44
Av.	275				Av.	190				Av.	270				Av.	270				Av.	270				Av.	268				Av.	273	

TABLE I

LIS LEAF PREPARATIONS OVER A WIDE RANGE AGAINST YOHIMBINE DEPRESSION

Single Culture Method

Norn	nal H	leart	Beat	1	Norn	nal H	Ieart	Beat	1	Norn	nal H	Ieart	Beat	1	Norn	nal H	leart	Be
269	46	46	44	I. 2.	281	44	64	/min. "	I. 2.	269	46	44	66	I. 2.	290	hrt.	bts.	/n
	44	44	44	_		66	64	44	-	-	64	44	44	_		44	64	
267	44	66	44	5.	285	44	44	44	5.	277	"	44	44	5-	295	66	61	
273				Av.	278				Av.	273				Av.	292			
			One	Hou	r												9	
					-					-								
-	hrt.	bts.		I.				/min.	1.					I.		hrt.		/r
	44	44	44		-		46	46				66	66			66	64	
-		44	44	-		.44	44	44	-			44	44	-		46	44	
240	44	44	44	5.	269	66	44	44	5.	273		44	44	5.	281	66	44	
265				Av.	264				Av.	264				Ava	276			
			Two	Hou	rs					,								
-															-			
269 273	44	bts.	/min.	I. 2.		44	bts.	/min.	I. 2.	263 272		bts.	/min.	I. 2.	273		bts.	/11
	292 269 267 269 273 025% 0.1% 290 240 285 269 240 265	292 hrt. 269 " 267 " 267 " 273 " 273 " 273 " 273 " 290 hrt. 240 " 240 " 265 " 240 " 265 " 269 hrt.	292 hrt. bts. 269 " " 267 " " 269 " " 267 " " 273 0025% Yohimb 0.1% Digitalis 290 hrt. bts. 240 " " 285 " " 240 " " 265 0025% Yohimb 0.1% Digitalis 269 hrt. bts.	269 " " " 269 " " " 267 " " " " " 273	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 269 " " " 2. 267 " " 3. 269 " " 4. 267 " " 5. 273 Av. One Hour 025% Yohimbine + 0.1% Digitalis (A) 290 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 " " 2. 285 " " 3. 269 " " 4 240 " " 5. Two Hou 025% Yohimbine + 0.1% Digitalis (A)	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 269 " " 2. 281 267 " " 3. 273 269 " " 4. 279 267 " " 5. 285 273 Av. 278 One Hour 025% Yohimbine + .025% 0.1% Digitalis (A) .05% 290 hrt. bts. /min. I. 245 240 " " 2. 279 285 " " 3. 269 269 " " 4 257 240 " " 5. 269 265 Av. 264 Two Hours 025% Yohimbine + .025% 025% Yohimbine + .025% 0269 " " 4. 257 240 " " 5. 269 269 " " 4. 257 269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240	292 hrt. bts. /min. 1. 277 hrt. 269 " " " 2. 281 " 267 " " 3. 273 " 269 " " 4. 279 " 267 " " 5. 285 " 273 Av. 278 One Hour 025% Yohimbine + .025% Yo 0.1% Digitalis (A) .05% Dig 290 hrt. bts. /min. 1. 245 hrt. 240 " " 2. 279 " 285 " " 3. 269 " 240 " " 4. 257 " 240 " " 5. 269 " Two Hours 025% Yohimbine + .025% Yo 0.05% Dig 269 hrt. bts. /min. 1. 245 hrt. 0.25% Yohimbine + .025% Yo 0.05% Dig 1. 240 hrt.	292 hrt. bts. /min.	292 hrt. bts. /min. 269 " " " 2. 281 " " " 267 " " 3. 273 " " " 269 " " 4. 279 " " " 267 " " 5. 285 " " " 273 Av. 278 One Hour O25% Yohimbine + 0.1% Digitalis (A) 290 hrt. bts. /min. 240 " " 2. 279 " " " 285 " " 3. 269 " " " 240 " " 4. 257 " " " 240 " " 4. 257 " " " 240 " " 5. 269 " " " 265 Av. 264 Two Hours O25% Yohimbine + 0.1% Digitalis (A) 1. 246 hrt. bts. /min. 240 " " 4. 257 " " " 259 " " " 4. 257 " " " 269 " " 4. 257 " " " 265 Av. 264 Two Hours O25% Yohimbine + 0.1% Digitalis (A) 1. 240 hrt. bts. /min. 1. 240 hrt. bts. /min.	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 269 " " " 2. 281 " " " 2. 267 " " 3. 273 " " " 3. 269 " " 4. 279 " " 4. 267 " " 5. 285 " " 5. 273 Av. 278 Av. One Hour 025% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .0.1% Digitalis (A) .05% Digitalis (A) 290 hrt. bts. /min. I. 245 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 285 " " 3. 269 " " 3. 269 " " 4. 257 " " 4. 240 " " 5. 269 " " 5. Av. 264 Av. Two Hours 025% Yohimbine + .0.25% Digitalis (A) .0.269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 hrt. bts. /min. I.	292 hrt. bts. /min.	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. 269 " " " 2. 281 " " " 2. 269 " 267 " " 3. 273 " " " 3. 265 " 269 " " 4. 279 " " 4. 277 " 267 " " 5. 285 " " 5. 277 " 273 Av. 278 Av. 278 Av. 273 One Hour O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) .	292 hrt. bts. /min.	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. 269 " " " 2. 281 " " 2. 269 " " " 2. 269 " " " 2. 269 " " " " 2. 269 " " " " 2. 269 " " " " 3. 265 " " " " 267 " " " 4. 279 " " " 4. 277 " " " " 267 " " " 5. 285 " " " 5. 277 " " " " 273 Av. 278 Av. 278 Av. 273 One Hour O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) 290 hrt. bts. /min. I. 245 hrt. bts. /min. I. 247 hrt. bts. /min. 240 " " " 2. 279 " " " 2. 272 " " " 285 " " 3. 269 " " 3. 261 " " " 2. 272 " " " 269 " " 4. 257 " " 4. 265 " " " 4. 265 " " " 240 " " " 5. 269 " " " 5. 269 " " 5. 273 " " " 265 Av. 264 Two Hours O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) O25% Digitalis (A)	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 269 " " " 2. 281 " " " 2. 269 " " " 2. 269 " " " 3. 265 " " 3. 265 " " " 3. 269 " " " 4. 279 " " 4. 277 " " " 4. 267 " " 5. 285 " " 5. 277 " " " 5. 277 " " 5. 273 Av. 278 Av. 273 Av. 273 Av. 278 Av. 273 Av. 273 Av. 273 Av. 274 Av. 275 " " " 2. 279 " " " 2. 279 " " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 2. 279 " " 3. 261 " " 3. 269 " " 3. 261 " " 3. 269 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 260 " " " 5. 269 " " " 5. 273 " " 5. 265 Av. 264 Av. 264 Av. 264 Av. 264 Av. 269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 hrt. bts. /min. I. 263 hrt. bts. /min. I. 269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 hrt. bts. /min. I. 263 hrt. bts. /min. I. 269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 hrt. bts. /min. I. 263 hrt. bts. /min. I. 269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 hrt. bts. /min. I. 263 hrt. bts. /min. I.	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 295 269 " " " 2. 281 " " 2. 269 " " 4. 2. 290 267 " " 3. 273 " " 3. 265 " " 3. 288 269 " " 4. 279 " " 4. 277 " " 4. 293 267 " " 5. 285 " " 5. 277 " " 5. 295 273 Av. 278 Av. 273 Av. 292 One Hour O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) .0125% 290 hrt. bts. /min. I. 245 hrt. bts. /min. I. 247 hrt. bts. /min. I. 272 285 " " 3. 269 " " 1. 2. 272 " " 2. 273 285 " " 3. 269 " " 3. 261 " " 3. 275 269 " " 4 257 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 281 240 " " 4 257 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 281 240 " " 4. 257 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 281 240 " " 4. 257 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 281 240 " " 4. 257 " " 4. 265 " " 4. 281 240 " " 4. 257 " " 4. 265 " " 5. 273 " 5. 281 Av. 264 Av. 264 Av. 264 Av. 264 Two Hours O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) .01259 269 hrt. bts. /min. I. 240 hrt. bts. /min. I. 263 hrt. bts. /min. I. 271	292 hrt. bts. /min. I. 277 hrt. bts. /min. I. 275 hrt. bts. /min. I. 295 hrt. 269 " " " 2. 281 " " " 2. 269 " " " 2. 290 " 267 " " 3. 273 " " 3. 265 " " " 3. 288 " 269 " " " 4. 279 " " 4. 277 " " " 4. 293 " 267 " " 5. 285 " " " 5. 277 " " " 5. 295 " 4. 273 Av. 278 Av. 273 Av. 292 **One Hour** **O25% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Yohimbine + .025% Digitalis (A) .0125% Digitalis (A) .0125% Digitalis (A) .0125% Digitalis (A) .0125% Digitalis (A) .025% Digitalis (A) .0125% Digitalis	292 hrt. bts. /min.

273

Av. 270

269

Av. 268

275

5. 277

Av. 273

273

277 261

Av. 270

```
277
                              44
    66
              283
          3.
          4. 277
             288
         Av. 280
            .025% Yohimbine +
nbine +
alis (A)
           .00625% Digitalis (A)
s. /min.
           1. 274 hrt. bts. /min.
                            . 44
    66
              277
66
                         44
                              64
              281
           3.
66
           4. 269
66
                              66
             250
          Av. 270
            .025% Yohimbine +
nbine +
alis (A)
            .00625% Digitalis (A)
           1. 281 hrt. bts. /min.
ts. /min.
     44
           2.
              277
66
     44
              281
           3.
66
              273
           4.
88
           5. 269
          Av. 276
```

Normal Heart Beat

1. 288 hrt. bts. /min.

rt Beat

s. /min.

. . .

and 0.1 per cent. digitalis (A), and which had an average normal heartbeat of 273, at the end of two hours had an average heartbeat of 270, a decrease of only three beats. Five other animals which were kept in culture water instead of drug solution showed a variation in average heartbeat during the two hours which was essentially the same as in the yohimbine digitalis mixture. A solution of 0.1 per cent. digitalis (A) without yohimbine produced a depression of seven beats

TABLE III

EFFECT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD DIGITALIS AGAINST YOHIMBINE DEPRESSION

]	Norn	nal H	leart	Beat	1	Norn	nal F	Ieart	Beat	1	Norn	nal H	leart	Beat
I.	270	hrt.	bts.	/min.	I.	290	hrt.	bts.	/min.	ī.	277	hrt.	bts.	/min.
2.	295	66	66	. 60	2.	295	66	66	66	2.	285	66	46	66
3.	285	66	44	. 44	3-	285	44	44	44	3.	288	46	66	44
4.	272	66	44	44	4.	285	44	64	44	4.	279	44	44	64
5.	290	44	44	94	5-	300	46	44	44	5.	288	66	44	- 44
٩v.	282				Av.	278				Av.	283			

One Hour

	.025	% Y	ohim	bine		-			ine + B) *	(himb Dig. (ine + (B)
1.	225	hrt.	bts.	/min.	I.	212	hrt.	bts.	/min.	ı.	231	hrt.	bts.	/min.
2.	247	44	. 66	46	2.	269	44	64	41	2.	235	44	86	64
3.	225	46	44	44	3.	176	44	64	ч	3.	220	64	66	J 64
	212	44	44	2 46	4.	196	66	66	44	4.	192	66	44	44
	218		64	44	5.	222	66	66	66	5.	228	66	44	44
lv.	225				Av.	215				Av.	223			

Two Hours

																_
	.025	% Y	ohim	bine						ine + B) *				himb Dig. (ine + (B)	
1.	231	hrt.	bts.	/min.		I.	203	hrt.	bts.	/min.	I.	228	hrt.	bts.	/min.	
2.	200		66	66	-		214		44	46	2.	217	64	66	64	
3.	189	66	44	44		3.	247	64	86	44	3.	214	23	66	-64	
4.	207	44	44	44		4.	219	66	44	66	4.	217	- 66	44	44	
	0		46	41		5.	219	44	44	46	5.	218	44	61	. 66	×
Av.	201					Av.	220				Av.	219				

^{*.0745%} International Standard Digitalis solution is equivalent to one Cat Unit per 100 cc.

in the average heartbeat per minute, a depression which does not exceed the normal variation.

The protective action of digitalis (A) against 0.025 per cent. yohimbine was evident in concentrations as low as 0.0625 per cent.

A sample of the same preparation of digitalis, which was more than two years old and which had been kept with no precautions to prevent deterioration, exhibited no protective action. As a matter of fact, it seemed to augment rather than inhibit the action of yohimbine (Table II).

A smaller concentration of digitalis produced a corresponding decrease of protection (Table I). A concentration of 0.1 per cent. digitalis (A) allowed only a 5 per cent. depression; 0.00625 per cent. digitalis (A) allowed a depression of 11 per cent. This effect of graded dosage indicates the feasibility of using the protective action of digitalis as a basis for an assay.

More experiments by the Mass Culture method were carried out using 0.025 per cent. yohimbine and varying concentrations of digitalis glucosides. Ten animals, having an average normal heartbeat of 277, were placed in a 0.025 per cent. yohimbine solution. Ten other animals, whose average heartbeat was 270, were placed in a solution containing 0.025 per cent. yohimbine and 0.00167 per cent. digitalis glucosides. At the end of one hour the daphnia were removed one by one and their heartbeat counted and averaged. The first group had an average heartbeat of 216 and the group in the yohimbine-glucoside solution had dropped to 256 (Table IV). The time limit was set as one hour because the one hour and two hour readings were practically the same.

The protective action of digitalis glucosides (C) against 0.025 per cent. yohimbine was evident in a concentration as low as 0.00033 per cent.

Direct comparison can be made between samples (A) and (B) because they are both powdered leaf preparations. However, precise comparison of the protective action cannot be made between the powdered leaf preparations and digitalis (C), the glucosidal mixture, because of various other substances in the leaf preparations, which may directly or indirectly inhibit or augment the action of the cardiac glucosides present.

The results indicate that Digitalis (A) has a greater protective action than digitalis (B) at equivalent concentrations (Tables I and III). On the other hand digitalis (C) protects against 0.025 per

TABLE IV

PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF DIGITALIS GLUCOSIDES AGAINST YOHIMBINE DEPRESSION

Mass Culture

Nor	mal l	Heart	Beat	Nor	mal 1	Heart	Bea	it	Nor	mal l	Heart	Beat
	Beat	s per	min.	274 281	Beat	s per	min		286 269	Beat	s per	min.
269	44	44	44	267	64	64	46		271	66	66	44
270	44	66	44		44	66	64		276	44	44	64
280	64	66	66	293 287	66	66	66		276 268	66	66	66
281	66	44	44	278	44	44	64		263	44	44	66
262	66	44	44	278 280	64	44	66		263 268	44	44	64
277	66	46	444		44	ee	66		263	46	46	66
270	44	66	66	265 288	64	44	64		269	64	44	44
279 270 280 281 263 277 279 269	46	44	44	288	66	46	66		267	66	44	44
277	Av.	beats	per min.	280	Av.	beats	per	min.	270	Av.	beats	per m

One-half Hour

0.0	25% H	Yohir ICl	mbine	0.0	OII% Glue	Digi		H	25% Y Cl + e gitalis	0.001	
	Beats	per	min.	286 276	Beats	per	min.	247 261	Beats	per "	min.
249	44	46	44	263	66	66	66	266	44	66	44
255 257 297 287	66	66	66	272	44	66	66	282	66	66	66
207	66	66	66	276	66	44	66	267	44	66	66
287	66	66	66	276 265	46	44	66		66	66	66
213	44	44	66	284	64	64	44	250 286	44	44	44
239	64	44	44	276	66	66	64	285	66	66	64
252	64	64	66	274	44	66	66	257	44	66	4k
264	66	64	44	274	44	44	44	245	. 66	66	44
247	Av. 1	beats	per min.	275	Av. b	peats	per min.	256	Av. I	eats	per min

One Hour

0.0	25% Y H	ohin Cl	nbine	0.0	OII%				H	25% Y Cl + gitalis	0.001	
215	Beats	per "	min.	275 268	Beats	per	min.		278 248	Beats	per	min.
232	66	64	44	281	46	44	64		246	66	42	64
218	64	44	44	286	66	46	66		260	66	66	46
228	66	44	66	274	66	44	66		248	64	86	44
	44	44	44		46	66	44		252	44	44	44
224 166	44	64	44	273 266	44	66	66		242	66	66	44
237	66	84	46	279	46	44	66		260	66	66	44
213	66	44	44	284	46	66	44			e4	86	44
213	66	66	46	272	44	44	64		257 269	44	- 64	64
216	Av. b	eats	per min	 278	Av. b	eats	per r	nin.	256	Av. ł	eats	per mi

cent. vohimbine in a concentration of about 1/20 of that of digitalis (A). But as mentioned above no really direct comparison can be made (Table V).

Before this non-toxic method of assay can become feasible, a number of factors producing variation in results must be further investigated and brought under control. The animals must be of the same age, sex, and of the same vitality. Animals which are anemic, small and generally sluggish will not produce the same results as healthier animals. The temperature must be constant.

Most important of all, a better understanding of standardization of the daphnia cultures must be obtained. At the present time, digitalis of a definite concentration does not always exhibit the same degree of protection in experiments in which all other factors apparently do not vary. Likewise, yohimbine in the concentrations used in these experiments does not always exhibit the same degree of depression. Thus, there are two variables which may be eliminated with the use of daphnia from more precisely controlled cultures.

V. Conclusions

1. Digitalis leaf exhibits protective action on the heart of Daphnia magna against depressants (e. g. yohimbine). The degree of protection appears to be directly proportional to the amount of digitalis.

2. Mixtures of digitalis glucosides exhibit the same protective action.

3. Further work is necessary to fully explore the feasibility of this method for assay purposes.

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TABLE V

Average Rate of Heart Beat Indicating Effect of Graded Dosage

Averages Obtained From Twenty-five Experiments Using Digitalis (A)

Normal Heart Beat per Min.	282	281	275	282	278	279	274	281
Dosage	0.025% Yohimbine	0.025% Yoh. + 0.1% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.075% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.05% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.025% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0125% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00625% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.003125% Digitalis
Heart Beat after 2 Hours	209	266	266	256	244	258	244	198

Fig

Averages Obtained From Fifteen Experiments Using Digitalis (B)

Normal Heart Beat per Min.	274	288	280	273	275	276
Dosage	0.025% Yohimbine	0.025% Yoh. + 0.1% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0745% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.05% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0345% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.025% Digitalis
Heart Beat after 2 Hours	196	239	220	223	204	180

Fig. 2

Averages Obtained From Thirteen Experiments Using Digitalis (C)

Normal Heart Beat per Min.	276	280	272	279	270	271	272
Dosage	0.025% Yohimbine	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0033% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00165% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0011% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00066% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00033% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.000165% Dig. Gluc.
Heart Beat after 1 Hour	188	242	244	252	240	220	199

Effect of Graded Dosage

iments Using Digitalis (A)

278	279	274	281	
0.025% Yoh. + 0.025% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0125% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00625% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.003125% Digitalis	
244	258	244	198	

sents Using Digitalis (B)

273	275	276
0.025% Yoh. + 0.05% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.0345% Digitalis	0.025% Yoh. + 0.025% Digitalis
223	204	180

ments Using Digitalis (C)

79	270	271	272
25% h. + 011% Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00066% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.00033% Dig. Gluc.	0.025% Yoh. + 0.000165% Dig. Gluc.
52	240	220	199

ABSTRACTS FROM AND REVIEWS OF THE LITERATURE OF THE SCIENCES SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH

The Identity of an Antibacterial Factor in the Saliva of Certain Mammalia. S. L. Rosenthal, W. M. McNabb and R. C. Snyder. J. A. D. A. 26, 1859 (1939). Attempts to induce oral Vincent's infection in normal animals by inoculation have been unsuccessful. While localized infection has resulted in some cases it is not comparable with the disease in man. The lesions heal spontaneously and the infection is not transmitted to other animals in contact with the affected animals.

An investigation of this apparent immunity was begun by bacteriologic examination of the mouths of normal mammals including both domesticated and wild animals. Smears were notable for their low bacterial count in comparison with man's and for the complete absence of motile microorganisms. Fusiform bacilli or spirochetes similar to those found commonly in the human oral cavity were not found except in a few cases where some pathologic condition or an extremely dirty mouth existed.

Apparently, the mouths of healthy animals contained antibacterial substances since their habits and diets must bring them in contact with innumerable spirochetal forms yet not only is spirochetosis rare in these species but also the spirochete is seldom seen in healthy specimens.

In an attempt to identify such a substance saliva was collected from several animals of different species. The pH was found to be from 8.4 to 8.6. Each sample was subjected to the motility test which consists in bringing a definite quantity of the fluid under a dark field microscope with an equal quantity of saliva from a patient with Vincent's infection. The saliva contains actively motile spirochetes, vibrios and bacilli together with the natural organic débris. The antibacterial properties are measured by the time elapsing from the moment of contact of the solutions to cessation of movements of (1) spirochetes, (2) vibrios and (3) motile bacilli. Other workers have shown that loss of motility in T. pallidum entails loss of pathogenicity.

Contact with all normal animal saliva caused spirochetes and vibrios from a human mouth to lose motility instantly. Many instantly destroyed the motility of all bacilli as well but others failed to penetrate débris well or to stop the movement of all motile bacilli.

The pH of saliva from dogs which were household pets and suffering from Vincent's infection was found to be 6.7-7.6, about the range of that in normal man. These animals upon recovery were found to have a salivary pH of 8.6 and all had regained the inhibitory effect on the motile oral flora.

The constituent of normal animal saliva which possessed this antibacterial action was finally found to be sodium carbonate. Interesting was the additional finding that not in pH alone does the effect of sodium carbonate rest, since a solution of sodium hydroxide of similar pH is much less active.

Chemical tests were made on two dogs and five persons with acute Vincent's infections. Continuous topical applications of a molar solution of sodium carbonate were made to the dried gingival tissues for fifteen minutes. Home care was limited to hourly rinsing or topical applications with this solution. Resolution was rapid in all cases.

L. F. T.

Methyl Cellulose in Pharmacy. G. A. Bergy, Amer. Prof. Pharm. (V, 691 (1939)). Methyl cellulose dissolved in distilled water at normal temperatures forms a stable jelly. This property enables its use with simple procedures, to form mucilages resistant to extreme heat, cold and light and impervious to bacterial decomposition. Preservatives needed are merely to protect the other ingredients of the preparation.

Methyl cellulose is marketed as a coarse, dry fibrous mass which when dissolved in water produces a uniformly viscous product free from lumps.

A slight sediment may form on standing and may be removed by centrifugalization or decantation of the supernatant liquid.

Solutions of methyl cellulose are neutral in reaction, exhibiting excellent dispersing and emulsifying qualities. Emulsions made thus are strongly alkaline in hot or cold, and on cooling the clarity and thickness are improved. This is advantageous in preparations containing titanium dioxide, zinc stearate or carbon black for the shearing

effect of mechanical agitation advances and improves reduction of particle size.

The solutions of methyl cellulose are prepared by pouring 10 to 15 parts of boiling water over 1 part of the substance, stirring thoroughly until the mass swells and lumps dissolve, being careful not to incorporate too much air. Allow the solution to cool to approximately 60° C., stir, and cool completely, stirring again to make it homogeneous. Strain through unsized, unbleached muslin. The stock solution thus prepared may be diluted to any desired strength.

Solutions of methyl cellulose and products containing them are harmless to man and animals either internally or externally. Being resistant to marked changes in pH, the stomach's acidity and the intestines alkalinity do not decompose it.

The author suggests the use of methyl cellulose as a thickening or binding agent, and emulsifying or dispersing agent in pharmaceutical or dermatological preparations. Use the rule for tragacanth of seventy grains to the pint or 10 gms. to the liter for the strength to be employed. The use of methyl cellulose in dentifrices, skin creams, depilatories, hair grooms, cleansing creams and dermal creams with a typical formula for each is recommended.

M H

Sulfapyridine for Pneumonia Control. Baltimore Health News, 16, 172 (1939) through Squibb Abstr. Bull. 12, 1303 (1939). Sulfapyridine has been used extensively in the treatment of pneumonia in a number of hospitals in Baltimore with great reduction in mortality. In one large series of cases only 7 per cent. mortality occurred and in a series of 70 small children with measles and pneumonia none died. Sulfapyridine is more effective than antipneumococcic serum and therefore it will probably be more generally used in the treatment of pneumonia in the patients' home. It was recommended by the Pneumonia Control Committee of the Maryland State Board of Health as the chief therapeutic agent in the control of this disease. This does not mean that the use of serum should be discarded but rather that serum be used as a supplement especially in very severe cases and in those not promptly improved by sulfapyridine. It is suggested that sulfapyridine be employed also in the treatment of lobar and interstitial pneumonia. Careful check-up must be maintained against toxic reactions. It should be discontinued at once if the white blood cell count falls below 4, 500/cu. mm. with less than 50 per cent. polymorphonuclear leukocytes.

It should also be withdrawn if a hemoglobin fall of 30 per cent. or more is observed, if there is any clinical evidence of excessive hemolysis or if more than a very few red blood cells are found in the urine. Urinary precipitation of acetylsulfapyridine is less likely to occur if sodium bicarbonate and moderately large amounts of fluid are given.

L. F. T.

Deflagration with Sodium Peroxide as a Simple Analytical Process for the Determination of Halogen, Sulfur and Other Constituents in Organic Substances. R. Kraus. Z. Anal. Chem. 117, 243 (1939) through Squibb Abstr. Bull. 12, 1402 (1939). Deflagration of solid organic substances and certain liquids by quick and short heating with a large excess of Na₂O₂ in a covered nickel crucible by the method presented gives a quick and complete combustion with relatively little attack on the crucible. The determination of halogens, sulfur and phosphorus may then be accurately made. Viscous liquids are first mixed with MgO and liquids of high boiling point are absorbed in filter paper in the crucible before mixing with the Na₂O₂. The method is limited for low percentage of Cl, S.. etc., only by the "blank" of the Na₂O₂. It is applicable to substances, such as chlorotoluidine, which are not readily decomposed by the Carius method. The method is particularly well suited for routine analysis.

L. F. T.

An Experimental Study of the Relation Between Concentration of Disinfectants and Time Required for Disinfection. F. W. Tilley. J. of Bacteriology (38, 499, 1939, No. 5). Different types of disinfectants act upon bacterial protoplasm in different ways. It can not be expected that the relation between concentration of disinfectant, and time required for disinfection can be expressed by a single formula applicable to all types. These factors do appear to be exponentially related over considerable ranges of concentrations and disinfection times in many disinfectants. In such cases the derived mathematical values may be useful in evaluating or predicting bactericidal efficiency.

The only variables allowable are: Concentration of disinfectant and time required for disinfection. The value n is known as the "concentration exponent" or "coefficient of dilution," denoting the degree to which dilution lessens the rate of disinfection. As an example, ethyl alcohol has a high value of n but loses its efficiency on dilution more rapidly than phenol which has an n value of about one half.

A modified Rideal-Walker technic was used to determine the bactericidal efficiencies of phenol, orthocresol, paracresol, orthobutylphenol, parabutylphenol, resorcinol, n-propylresorcinol, ethyl alcohol and n-butyl alcohol against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Eberthella typhosa*. The following formula was employed to calculate n:

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\log \mathbf{t_2} - \log \mathbf{t_1}}{\log \mathbf{C_1} - \log \mathbf{C_2}}$$

TABLE 4

Values of n determined at different temperatures

Disinfectant	Test Organism	10° C.	20° C.	30° C.	40° C
Phenol	E. typhosa S. aureus	7.9 6.5	7.5 6.5	5.9 6.4	5.2 5.4
Orthocresol	E. typhosa S. aureus	8.3 7.8	7.9	5.5 8.1	5.1
Paracresol	E. typhosa S. aureus	8.9 8.2	8.4 8.7	6.4	5.3 7.0
O-Butylphenol	E. typhosa S. aureus		9.2 8.5	7.2 9.1	
P-Butylphenol	E. typhosa S. aureus	,	9.2 8.9	9.3	
Resorcinol	E. typhosa S. aureus	4.6	5.I 5.0	5.2 6.2	
Ethyl alcohol	E. typhosa S. aureus	12.7	11.4	8.8 8.5	
N Butyl alcohol	E. typhosa S. aureus		11.9	10.3	

SOLID EXTRACTS

By Ivor Griffith, Ph. M., Sc. D., F. R. S. A.

Despite the form in which this information is presented it may be accepted as trustworthy and up-to-date. Original sources are not listed but they may be obtained upon request.

When an ungiving ash tray falls on a mahogany table it usually leaves its tell-tale mark. Such indentations, if they are not too deep, can usually be removed without difficulty by a paste of glycerin, water and iron oxide. Dip a hard felt pad in the paste and rub briskly back and forth over the scratched surface until the markings have disappeared. This procedure is especially adapted to removing shallow scratches. Deep gougings, however, require more specialized treatment. Many polishing materials used in mechanical methods utilize glycerin as an essential ingredient.

And speaking of glycerin, a commodity much more useful than most people know. Christmas decorators will do well to remember that soaking holly wreaths and similar fresh greenery in a 5 per cent. solution of glycerin in water keeps these Yuletide ornaments sprightlier and livelier than they might otherwise keep. Of course after the pre-soaking the hung-up wreaths, etc., should be allowed to drain thoroughly before being placed. This procedure is necessary only in the case of leaves and leaf or other live green ornaments used for interior decorations. Outside weather takes care of its own, but the warmth inside crisps too soon the cold loving evergreens.

If you want to transfer a favorite design or print on a news-sheet to paper, cloth, wood or other surfaces, this can usually be satisfactorily accomplished by employing the following simple solution of familiar ingredients:

Glycerin			0		0								11/2
Soap										0	a		4
Alcohol .										•			10
Water	 	 											10

Wet thoroughly the print or drawing to be transferred. Remove excess liquid with a clean blotter and invert print onto the paper or cloth to which it is to be transferred. Lay a piece of paper over it and rub with a blunt article such as a knife handle.

The intimate chemical relationships existings between alkaloids, hormones and many dyestuffs are not always appreciated by pharmacologists. Many of the new synthetics also are first cousins to the coal tar dyestuffs. For instance, Sulfanilamide compounds, used in the war against disease on a score of fronts, promise to be useful in the scientific study of the undiseased tissues of animals and plants. One such has been found to be an effective "vital stain." Vital stains are dyes used on living tissues, which they color up and thus make easier to examine under the microscope. The sulfanilamide compound used has been long since known under the trade name of Neoprontosil, and it tinges the cells of plants and insects red. The discovery was made incidentally, while investigating possible effects on virus diseases.

Any new use for castor oil to divert it from the use that you think of when you hear the name is news. Castor oil is being used to make paint, replacing the tung oil largely imported from China and now difficult to get on account of the Japanese invasion. As pressed from the castor bean, the oil will not dry properly. So it is necessary to dehydroxylate it, snatch out some hydrogen and oxygen (water, if you must know) atoms from its molecule, which makes it a drying, odorless, non-yellowing, oil comparable with tung oil. It is a 9-11 octadecadieneic acid, if you talk chemistry; Dehydrol, if you talk paint manufacture. As a partner to the dehydrated castor oil, there is phenol resin, one of the most familiar synthetic plastics made from carbolic acid (phenol) and formaldehyde, modified into a pale, extra hard resin for making quick drying, water resistant varnishes, enamels and undercoats.

Wounds in plants are caused to heal by an acid which has been isolated in crystalline form by Drs. James English, Jr., James Bonner and A. J. Haagen-Smit of the California Institute of Technology,

and for which they propose the name "traumatic acid." The substance has the chemical formula $C_{12}H_{22}O_4$, and is identical with the organic acid, I-decene-I, I0-dicarboxylic acid. The three experimenters, using a solution of this acid synthetically prepared, induced rapid formation of healing tissue on the cut surfaces of potato tubers. The discovery of the chemical nature of the wound hormone is announced briefly in "Science," with the statement that a more detailed report will be published later, when its application to animal wounds may be discussed.

A chemical compound that may prove as good a remedy against infectious diseases as sulfanilamide, with less toxic effects, is announced by the U. S. Public Health Service.

The compound, prepared by Drs. Hugo Bauer and Sanford M. Rosenthal, at the National Institute of Health, contains phosphorus instead of sulfur, and is different in other ways from sulfanilamide. Three such compounds have been prepared, of which one, bis (4-dimethylaminophenyl) phosphinous acid, checked streptococcus infections in mice and had a low toxicity.

No human trials of these chemicals have been made yet, nor will they be, Dr. Rosenthal said, before more extensive laboratory investigations.

The object of the research, in which compounds with arsenic substituting for the sulfur of sulfanilamide were also made, is to find chemicals which either are better than sulfanilamide or are effective against germ infections which sulfanilamide does not check.

Listerine has listened to the law! Thousands who have hearkened to the outrageous claims made by its manufacturers and who have sought through it some surcease from the dandruff distribution will find little comfort in the fact that the Lambert Pharmacal Company have entered into a stipulation with the Federal Trade Commission to cease making the following unwarranted advertising claims for this product:

(1) That all dandruff is due to an infection with Pityrosporon ovale or any other organism;

- (2) That dandruff necessarily is a germ disease;
- (3) That the dandruff germ has been isolated or identified;
- (4) That the presence of Pityrosporon ovale necessarily means dandruff or that with its destruction dandruff disappears;
- (5) That dandruff is necessarily infectious, contagious or "catching" or is in all instances passed from one person to another, or
- (6) That any of the foregoing assertions is a "scientific fact" or a "fact definitely established by scientists."

It was also stipulated that the company stop representing that the product either cures or permanently relieves dandruff; that the product "kills the dandruff germ," "attacks the cause of dandruff," or penetrates infected hair follicles, or "annihilates" the dandruff germ.

Finally, the company will no longer advertise: that the product has "marked curative properties due to certain ingredients in a unique combination shared by no other antiseptic"; that ordinary remedies "aren't even antiseptic," are "smelly," affect only surface symptoms, or merely remove surface symptoms temporarily, or that competitive products are obviously inferior to "Listerine Antiseptic" as a remedy for dandruff—when such are not the facts.

But despite these capitulations there still seems to be a demand

for Listerine if only because of its name.

BOOK REVIEWS

Done by persons, unafraid to upbraid, but perfectly willing to give praise where praise is really due.

A Textbook of Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By Harold N. Wright, M.S., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmacology, University of Minnesota; and Mildred Montag, R.N., M.A., Instructor in Nursing Arts, St. Luke's Hospital, New York City. 566 pages with 83 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1939. Cloth, \$2.75.

This book is obviously intended to be used by pupil nurses, as is shown both by the subjects covered and the method of presentation. The first seventy-five pages are given over to an outline of some points of elementary pharmacy which are of interest to the nursing profession; then follows about fifteen pages chiefly devoted to consideration of various methods of administering drugs. This leaves about four hundred pages to be devoted to the subject of pharmacology. Even in this latter part of the book the authors have in mind always their intended audience and continuously emphasize those pharmacological facts which especially concern the nursing profession, with a compensatory skimping of many of the phases which are of interest to pharmacists.

The pharmacological portion of the book displays a pleasing clarity of style which is enhanced by a number of illustrative diagrams but is unfortunately marred by weird typographical arrangement. Here and there the effort at simplicity has lured the author into some generalizations which are not strictly accurate—such as the implication that all germicides act by precipitating protein—but anyone who can read the book unperturbed by the inconsistencies in the use of black-face type and in the paragraphing should obtain an understanding of the modern ideas of drug action. The drugs considered are not limited to those official but include a considerable number of the more important of the proprietary synthetics.

H. C. WOOD.

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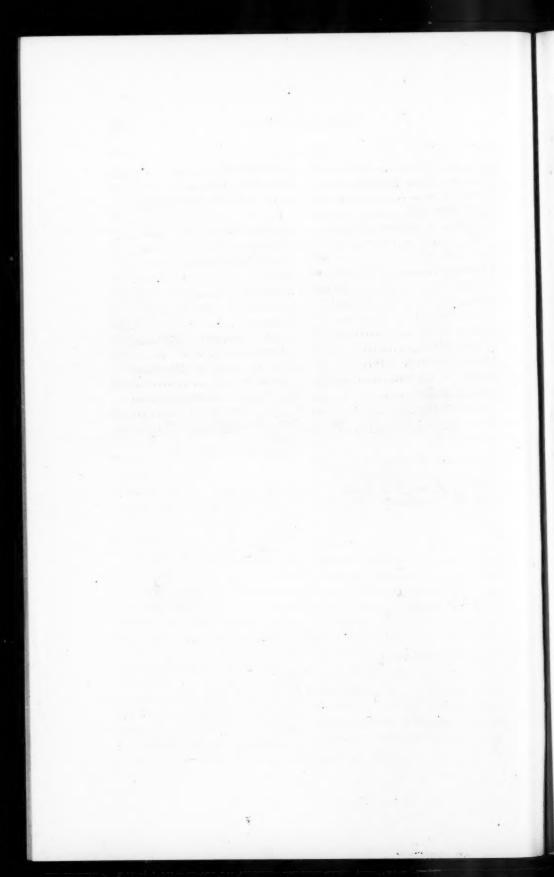
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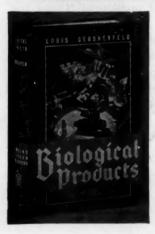
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